

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-30

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O R 231820Z APR 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6752

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 2403

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, US

SUBJ: ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 79713; (B) STATE 79714; (C) STATE 77678

1. SOAMES ASKED TO SEE ME PRIVATELY AT THE END OF THE DAY APRIL 23 REGARDING THE ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THE EC COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER A PROPOSAL THE MORNING OF APRIL 24 IN STRASBOURG. ASSUMING COMMISSION APPROVAL, WHICH HE ANTICIPATES, THE PROPOSAL WILL BE TAKEN UP BY THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25, IN BRUSSELS. (SOAMES EXPECTS THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO GET THE PROPOSAL INFORMALLY WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR SO.)

2. SOAMES INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO PURSUE
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THE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS WITH THE

MISSION SINCE THAT HAS BEEN PROCEEDING DIRECTLY WITH WASHINGTON. HE DID WANT TO EXPRESS HIS HOPE THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER AND ALL OF THOSE CONCERNED AT SENIOR LEVELS IN WASHINGTON WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS DONE ITS BEST AND WILL HAVE MADE THE MAXIMUM EFFORT POSSIBLE. GETTING THE PROPOSAL ACCEPTED BY ALL OF THE NINE WILL BE NO MEAN FEAT IN AOEMES' VIEW. IN ANY CASE -- AND WHATEVER THE WASHINGTON REACTION MIGHT BE ON THE SUBSTANCE -- HE WANTED TO US GOVERNMENT TO BE CLEAR ON THE EFFORT MADE BY THE COMMISSION AND BY SOAMES PERSONALLY TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION ON THE ARTICLE XXIV:6 QUESTION.

3. I SAID THAT WE NEVER DOUBTED SOAMES' GOODWILL, BUT THE ISSUES INVOLVED ARE DIFFICULT AND INVOLVE IMPORTANT INTERESTS. I SAID THAT WASHINGTON WOULD HAVE TO REACH A JUDGMENT ON THE PROPOSAL ONCE THEY HAVE SEEN IT. THE US DESIDERATA HAD BEEN MADE KNOWN IN DETAIL BY AMBASSADOR EBERLE AND HIS COLLEAGUES. I HOPED THAT THE NEW PROPOSAL REPRESENTED A COMMISSION ATTEMPT TO BRING THE MEMBER STATES ALONG TO MAKE THE SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS NEEDED TO REACH A VIABLE COMPROMISE AGAINST THE PLIITICAL BACKGROUND OF THE SCHEEL LETTER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER FOLLOWING THE LAST EC COUNCIL MEETING, AND THE SECRETARY'S SUBSEQUENT LETTERS TO SCHEEL AND ORTOLI. SOAMES SAID THAT HIS PROPOSAL DOES NOT REPRESENT SIMPLY THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR OF KNOWN POSITIONS OF THE NINE MEMBER STATES. IT WOULD GO SOMEWHAT BEYOND THE LAST POSITION INFORMALLY CONVEYED TO THE US SIDE BY HIJZEN ON CITRUS, TOBACCO AND SOME INDUSTRIAL ITEMS. BUT IT WOULD NOT MEET ALL US REQUESTS. MYERSON

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